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THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

9 July 1981

National and International News in Brief

International

A U.S. group is ordered to close its office in Panama.

Sixteen Americans who work for the Summer Institute of Linguistics were ordered yesterday to leave the country for possessing unregistered communications equipment, and the organization was told to close its office on the outskirts of Panama City. Police said they found radio transmitting equipment, a Teletype machine and a telephone switchboard, all unregistered. The institute, which translates the Bible into tribal dialects, gained international attention in March when one of its teachers, Chester Bitterman of Lancaster, Pa., was kidnapped and killed by leftist guerrillas in Colombia. The abductors accused the institute of being a front for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

National

The CIA creates a council to assess foreign developments.

With Henry S. Rowen, a former president of Rand Corp., at its helm, the National Intelligence Council was created by CIA director William Casey to pull together a dozen officials specializing in particular geographic areas to draft government-wide assessments of foreign developments. Casey's predecessor, Stansfield Turner, put the officials into the same structure as the CIA's intelligence analysts. Turner's move was criticized by conservatives, who said it resulted in less attention paid to views which dissented from CIA positions. The new council will report directly to Casey.